

superabsorbent material is distributed, wherein said superabsorbent material is a partially neutralised superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation between 20 and 50% the absorbent structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 8 mm when dry.

a' cont.
2. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of neutralisation is between 25 and 35%.

3. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbent structure includes dry-formed, compressed CTMP pulp or CP pulp in addition to superabsorbent material.

4. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein said structure has a thickness of 1 mm to 3mm when dry.

5. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein said absorbent article is intended for incontinence protectors or feminine products.

6. (Amended) An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partially neutralised superabsorbent material is placed in the wetting region and conventional superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation of about 70% is placed outside the wetting region.

a2 7. An absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a first zone closer to the wearer including the partially neutralised superabsorbent material and a second zone which is located beneath the first zone in a direction from the wearer of the absorbent article, wherein the second zone comprises conventional superabsorbent material having a degree of neutralisation of about 70%.

8. An absorbent structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partially neutralised superabsorbent is placed in a layer or sheet in the bottom or lower part of the structure.

a3 9. (Amended) An absorbent article such as a diaper, pant diaper, incontinence protector, sanitary napkin, panty liner, comprising an upper liquid-permeable sheet, a bottom liquid-impermeable barrier sheet, and an absorbent structure enclosed therebetween, characterised in that the absorbent structure is of the kind defined in Claim 1.

REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, the wording in Claims 1-9 has been amended to present the claims in better form. New Claims 1-9 are presented for consideration. The foregoing amendments relate to the claims filed in the International Application on December 18, 2000.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.